

MAR 27 1920

# THE CANADIAN RAILROADER

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TAKE THE POLITICS OUT OF THE TARIFF  
ARE OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
IN SAFE HANDS?

OTTAWA, LONDON AND SCOTTISH LETTERS  
*From Our Own Correspondents.*

OFFICIAL ORGAN,  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
MEETING ASSOCIATION  
OF CANADA.

MONTREAL, MARCH 27th, 1920  
Vol. 2, No. 13

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**CANADA**

## Take the Politics out of the Tariff

(By GEORGE PIERCE)

WHEN the question of the appointment of a Tariff Board was being urged by Mr. Taft, when he was President of the United States, the same objections were raised to defeat the campaign for the institution of the Board which the reactionaries are using at this hour to prevent the appointment of a Tariff Board in Canada. It is claimed that it would be a Board of hirelings and clerks, that there has been too much Government by Commissions and Boards, that the highest privileges of Government are its revenue enactments, that we are attempting to take the tariff out of politics. Among these objections the last charge is probably the most absurd. Every sensible man fully realizes that the object and aim of the Tariff Board is not to take the tariff out of politics but to take politics out of the tariff. Tariff revenue measures in which the protective principle has been recognized and enforced have the most bearings upon the business and the prosperity of the country. The very lives of the citizens are involved. It would be inviting extreme danger and imminent disaster to effect substantial changes in the rates, unless the most careful inquiries concerning the effect of such changes on the industries involved are made.

The reform aimed at in the organization of a Tariff Board is to base whatever changes are to be made on precise information so that progress in the country's development would become a certainty. The scope of inquiry is so great that the most delicate care must be exercised in securing effective data which will be of benefit in determining tariff adjustments. In addressing the Senate of the United States on this question, President Taft said: "The Tariff Board has been referred to sometimes as a Board of experts on the Tariff. This is hardly the correct description. It would be impossible to secure a Board all the members of which had expert knowledge upon all the subjects of the Tariff, for the 14 or 15 schedules are very broad in their scope and include much of which is manufactured or produced in the world; indeed, it is by no means clear that it would be of advantage to have in the Board itself men who were experts upon the making and sale of particular articles mentioned in the Tariff. It is far better to have on the Board men who are in the habit of making investigations, who are in the habit of calculating costs, who are in the habit of digesting and analyzing great collections of evidence and reducing them to intelligent conclusions which may be stated for the benefit of those who intend to use them. That is the profession of these economists, and therefore I put at the head of this Board Professor Henry C. Emery, upon the recommendations of the Presidents of a number of Universities who were consulted. Mr. Alvin Sanders was the editor of The Breeders' Gazette,

a man of the highest standing, who had devoted his life to the agricultural interests of this country, while Mr. Reynolds had been for four years an Asst. Secretary to the Treasurer under Mr. Roosevelt, in charge of Customs, and he became familiar with the operation of the existing Tariff and its construction. To these three I added Professor Page of the University of California, and then of the University of Virginia, a well known economist, in the same general standing with that of Professor Emery; and Mr. William Howard, a former Democratic Congressman from Georgia and admittedly one of the ablest and fairest members of the half dozen Congresses in which he served. The make up of the Board insures non-partisan action. The truth is, that with the exception of Mr. Howard and Mr. Reynolds, the Board may be said to have no political affiliations at all. "They are under instructions to draw their conclusions without respect to their effect, and I venture to say that there is no Board in the country less likely to be influenced by any improper considerations than the Tariff Board as it is thus constituted."

Ex-President Taft then elaborated upon the methods of investigation and made comparisons with the old and obsolete processes which had been used. He said, "It will always appear that the method of investigation is quite different than that of congressional committees, and the information afforded much more detailed in character, and, on the other hand is much more condensed than the information developed by the verbal explanation of witnesses. The work of the Board up to date in the way of 'detailed inquiry' has now several dozen agents working on the facts of persons engaged in the production or manufacture of all the articles in question in foreign countries and abroad. What congressional committee ever even attempted such investigation, covering, as it must, many months of time? Besides this work of investigation, there has been much work done in the preparation of a glossary for many of the schedules covering not only the important statistics but a description of each article enumerated in the Tariff, with an explanation of its relation to the industry, its importance to producers and consumers, and the nature of the Tariff duty imposed. Besides this, technical experts have been employed to make special reports on special schedules of the Tariff which will serve as a basis for later investigation of a more detailed character."

We ask you in all fairness to contrast this careful scientific method with the slip-shod methods we Canadians employed in the past, which consisted in calling men engaged in business and requesting their opinions on whatever details they were willing to furnish, without any verification for the reliability of such statements, after which we composed ourselves and allowed the witness to make sug-

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gestions as to whether the Tariff should be lowered or raised. The futility of securing impartial and exact knowledge by such methods has furnished the main motive for reforms which demands scientific and impartial methods in securing the facts upon which to base the all important Tariff legislation.

It should be plain that whatever policy is supported by the people by voting for either party, the impartial finding of facts remains as important in any case. Our future prosperity will not hinge upon any particular Tariff act but will depend upon a permanent, continued and unbiased study of industrial conditions from one year to another. This is the unqualified work of a permanent Tariff Board.

1,600 labor organizations vehemently indorsed and urged the appointment of a Tariff Board because we want the Tariff based upon concise information scientifically tabulated showing the chief sources of supply at home and abroad, the methods of its production, its chief uses, statistics of production, imports and exports, with an estimate of the ad valorem equivalent for all specific duties.

1,600 labor unions indorsed the Tariff Board because we believe that there should be a scientific inquiry into the actual cost of production. We realize that this is practical from the work that has been accomplished by the American and the European Boards.

1,600 organizations indorsed the Tariff Board by resolution because we believe that men of experience in particular lines of industry both on

the technical and commercial side are better qualified than politicians to secure accurate information regarding actual prices at home and abroad, the peculiar local conditions of home and foreign competition to which it is subjected.

1,600 labor unions indorsed the idea of the Tariff Board because we are of the opinion that such a body will render the greatest service to the executive and legislative branches of the Government. We believe it is of first importance that it should be established on a permanent basis; that its members be appointed only for their capacity and qualifications to deal with economic questions of this nature efficiently, without bias of any kind. We strongly urge that the duties and powers of the commission should be defined by law in such a way as to make them absolutely independent and free from the control of any political party.

We are absolutely opposed to the old slip-shod, unscientific methods of the past. We refuse to be, any longer, the victims of political jugglery. We protest against being fired and hired again at each election time. We demand security, permanency in employment. We do not want the employer robbed and we do not want to be robbed ourselves. If we are thrown out of work for political effect at each Tariff election, then we are plunged into debt. We refuse to be gouged in this manner to perpetuate an inefficient and indefensible system the havoc of which falls so heavily upon us.

If there is a disposition to ignore our attitude on this question, we will make our strength felt in unmistakable terms at the next election.

**Editorial Note:**—So far as the attitude of the Farmer is concerned we are at a loss to understand why the Canadian Farmer is so strong in advocating Free Trade and Tariff reduction when it is a matter of record that Farmers Granges and all other Farmer organizations in the United States insistently fought for the appointment of a Tariff Board. We shall discuss the action of the American Farmer organizations in this connection more fully in a coming number.

In the light of the certain disaster that would be visited upon the working class it is still more surprising that the Labor Party wing of labor has adopted the political expediency, in certain instances, of affiliating with the Radical Farmer propaganda of Free Trade.

This phase will also be discussed in future numbers.

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## WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN?

**I**T was a diversified gathering which assembled at the Rideau Club, in the early months of January. They had been summoned from the furthest ends of Canada by urgent telegrams from Sir Robert Borden, who was by this time aware that a malignant ailment was soon to deprive the country of his services. His heart was heavy at the thought of his people's fate in the hands of the lesser mortals to whom he would hand on the falling torch and he had devised the idea as a last service to the Dominion of assembling the leading figures in the political life of the Dominion, and thus addressing them:

Gentlemen:—For me, this is a sorrowful moment. I am about to bid a long farewell to public life. It is true that exigencies will probably compel me to retain the titular premiership and the salary for a few brief months, but my work is done. Opinions will differ as to whether as the political guides of our beloved Dominion we have made a success of the year which has just closed. But let me urge upon you one profound truth which has always guided my own career. The past is behind you, the future is yet to come. I have no honors, rewards or laudations to seek. But I have been moved to make a last request of you all, friends and foes alike, to register formally here each some good resolutions, which may have the effect, if they are carried out, of improving the public life and government of this country.

I propose with your consent to call you each in turn by name and ask you to declare your resolutions for the coming year in as brief form as possible. The resolution will be registered after each name and endorsed with your signature. At one time, I proposed to publish them at my own expense, but on second thoughts, I have decided that they ought to be issued in a blue book and distributed to the electorate in order that an impression now unhappily prevalent of the incompetence and selfishness of the politicians of Canada may be at least partially removed. I will simply call out names as they occur to me and my Secretary, Mr. Yates, will take down the resolutions opposite to each name. I will begin with my friend Mr. Rowell, who must have long experience of the fortifying benefits of good resolutions.

Mr. Rowell: "I promise to abandon all attempts to make Canada 'bone dry' from coast to coast, I promise not to give out more than one interview per week about the League of Nations. I promise to use the word 'constituted authority' only twice in the course of the next session. I will cease transmitting confidential accounts of Cabinet meetings to the Editor of

the 'Toronto Star'. I will indulge in extensive studies of international law and not commit the government to legislation which is only within the scope of the provinces. I will respect the integrity of Hansard and I will ask Mr. Charles Murphy to lunch on the opening day of the session.

Mr. Mackenzie King: "I will only mention my grandfather in every third speech. I will not refer to my close friendship with my beloved predecessor in the Liberal leadership I will rewrite Industry and Humanity. I will not read out any letters from American captains of industry testifying to the value of my services to the Allied cause in settling labor disputes. I will take absolutely the same attitude on the tariff in Kitchener, Ontario, as in North Battleford, Sask. I will learn what the exact definition of ownership is and what is the effect of a debenture upon it.

Mr. R. L. Richardson: "I will only tell the story of my departure from the Liberal party once next session, and I will not occupy more than two hours in so doing. I will sell the 'Winnipeg Tribune' to any man, syndicate or party who is as true a friend of democracy as myself".

Col. John A. Currie: "I will preach the doctrines of free trade with great eloquence and assiduity and I will assist in the perpetuation of the Unionist party".

Mr. J. A. Calder: "I will remove my mustachios and allow my colleagues, opponents and the general public to get a full view of my apostolic features. I will forget that I ever was the acknowledged chieftain of the Western Liberals. I will banish the fate of J. P. Brown from my memory. I will make no more pilgrimages to Quebec to allure Sir Lomer Gouin into the Union Government. I will be a loyal support of Mr. Meighen's candidature for the Premiership."

Mr. D. D. Mackenzie: "I will hand back to the Finance Department the superfluous \$7,000 which I secured last year as temporary leader of the Opposition. I will refer henceforth to Prince Edward Island as the 'pride of our noble estuary' and not the 'cham of the gulf'. I will make no speeches recommending the rest of Canada to buy Nova Scotia Coal at extravagant prices. I will abjure protectionism and all its works."

Dr. Michael Clark: "I will undertake to give Mr. Mackenzie tutorial lessons in economics for an hour every day during the session".

Mr. T. A. Crerar: "I will ask as sponsor for a delegation of the Canadian Manufacturers Association when next they come to Ottawa to demand the restoration of tariffs on tractors. I will publicly state my belief that Sir Thomas White is the greatest finance mi-

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nister that the British Commonwealth has ever known, surpassing even Gladstone and Goschen. I will denounce from my seat in the House the New National Policy of the farmers as subversive of our national prosperity and most sacred institutions".

Mr. C. Murphy: "I will speak in the House in favor of the appointment of the President of the Privy Council as (a) our representative at Washington; (b) our delegate to the League of Nations, on the ground that he is our most presentable public figure. I will join the Orange order within six weeks and request the Speaker to allow me to share a room with Mr. Horatio Hocken, during the forthcoming session. I will undertake to get 1000 subscribers for the "Orange Sentinel".

Mr. H. C. Hocken: "I will join the Knights of Columbus, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Sinn Fein. I will invite Mr. De Valera to address a meeting in Toronto, of which I will be chairman. I will have the "Orange Sentinel" printed in French every week, and will publish on the front page every second a portrait and laudatory biography of a leading Roman Catholic ecclesiastic. If Mr. Charles Murphy asks me to share a room, I will consent".

Brigadier-General Griesbach: "I will advocate complete disarmament and oppose all proposals for a Canadian Navy".

Mr. J. H. Burnham: "I will indulge in regular and enthusiastic panegyrics of Union Government. I will endorse prohibition and plead for a Canada 'bone dry from coast to coast'."

Both the members from St. John: "We will undertake not to mention the urgent necessities of our great winter port during the whole session, and we will not set foot inside the department of either the Minister of Public Works or the Minister of Marine."

Mr. Ballantyne: "I will move in the course of the Budget debate, if the rules permit an amendment, to wipe out the tariff on paint. I will desist from my plans to establish a bounty system for the benefit of Canadian shipbuilders. I will kick all representatives of the steel companies who come to plead for the shipbuilders out of my office."

Mr. J. M. Douglas (of Strathcona): "I will decline the vacant Alberta Senatorship if it is offered me."

Sir James Lougheed: "I will propose the abolition of the Senate and stump the country in support of the idea. I will advocate the nationalization of the C.P.R., the renunciation of all existing titles in Canada and the doubling of allowance of all soldier patients under the charge of the S.C.R. I will address open air meetings of the Independent Labor party in Cartier Square, as soon as the snow goes."

Mr. Lucien Cannon: "I will speak for three hours, at the first opportunity, on the virtues of the people of Ontario. I will urge the appointment of Dr. J. W. Edwards to the Senate. I will describe all Liberal-Unionists henceforth as 'highsouled patriots'. I will advocate compulsory military service for all Canadians between 18 and 45."

Sir Thomas White: "I will stop using the word "I" more than fifteen times on each column of Hansard and cultivate the use of the expression "one does", or "one believes". I will take a trip to New Zealand and Australia to take lessons from the Finance Ministers of these countries how direct taxation can be properly levied. Before going abroad, I will introduce a bill providing for a levy on war made wealth, and if possible, on all capital. If I have time, I will write a pamphlet pointing out the necessity for a State Banking system on the Australian model. I will resign my directorships on the boards of the Bank of Commerce, the National Trust Company and the Steel Company of Canada, and offer my services in any position and at any remuneration to United Grain Growers' Ltd or the U.F.O. Co-operative Society. I will even run as a U.F.O. candidate in Leeds."

Senator Robertson: "I will buy the best obtainable portrait of Karl Marx, at the expense of the Government, and hang it on the walls of my room, in the Labor Department. I will suggest the appointment of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, or Mr. Will Thorne, as the next Governor General. I will proclaim myself a Socialist of the Bolshevik wing. I will resign from the Cabinet and proceed with all haste to Winnipeg to address meetings in favor of the release of R. B. Russell and other political prisoners."

Mr. Nicholson (of Algoma): "I will only participate in two debates during the whole session. I will not mention my experiences as a railwayman in either of these. I will undertake not to occupy any pulpits during the present year."

Mr. Joseph Archambault: "I promise to refrain from making jokes about (a) The City of Toronto, (b) the Cabinet during the session. I will apologize to Mr. Richardson for putting the episode of the consumption of the grapes at a London banquet upon Hansard.

Mr. C. J. Doherty: "I will tell the whole story of the Guelph Novitiate incident and my unbiased opinion of the old Borden Cabinet."

Sir George Foster: "I will limit my use of the French language to two short sentences per day. I will resign my portfolio and accept any appointment which may be offered me and will not insist upon becoming High Commissioner in London."

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## The Return of the Envoys

March 2, 1920.

(With apologies to Professor Aytoun.)

News of Borden, news of Borden,  
Hark, the hurrying down the  
[street,  
Through the archways, o'er the  
(pavements  
Comes the clang of hastening  
[feet.

In a room a sombre gath'ring  
Of the Coalition host  
Met to hear the latest tidings  
Of the leader they had lost.

Southward they had sent two envoys  
To the distant Yankee town,  
One erstwhile a Liberal chieftain,  
With him, a Tory of renown.

They had charged them with the  
[duty  
All the truth to ascertain,  
Was Sir Robert sick or better,  
Would he e'er return again?

So to Messrs. Reid and Calder,  
Eager queries were addressed,  
And a surging mob around them,  
Seeking information pressed.

"Tell us of the good Sir Robert,  
Hath inertia dimmed his eye?  
Can he sit upon a sofa,  
Or does he sad and prostrate  
(lie??"

"Is he fit to play a foursome  
Driving strongly off the tees,  
Os as late the cables told us,  
Has he weakness of the knees?"

Never a word spake that shrewd  
[statesman,  
Sometimes known as Silent Jim,  
Not for him to give opinions,  
Better keep his counsel dim.

So it fell unto the Doctor  
To address the motley host,  
And report upon their mission,  
Fearless of whate'er it cost.

In these tones of lofty culture,  
Such as he is wont to use,  
In his grand and stately phrases,  
Dr. Reid gave forth his news.

"Yes, my friends, your dear  
[Sir Robert,  
Yester evening we did see,  
At a hotel in Manhattan,  
Lying on a soft settee.

"There we gave him all your  
[greetings  
And his 'fevered' brow did  
[stroke,  
While I felt his throbbing pulses,  
Calder cheered him with a joke.

"Then we told him of the trials  
Which beset his faithful crew,  
How the choice of his successor  
Put them in a fearsome stew."

"Some were urging Arthur Meighen,  
Others said Sir Thomas White.  
James himself had some supporters;  
But who could this strange host  
[unite??"

"And we warned him how the  
[problem  
Faced us with an early grave,  
In a damnable election,  
Which his return alone could  
[stave."

"Fain would he return among us  
Take his place in yonder seat,  
Give his message to the lieges,  
And his shattered plans repeat."

"But his nerves are sadly shaken,  
And he asks a guarantee  
That from certain dire afflictions  
He will henceforth be set free."

"The wise member for Algoma  
Must not tell us all he knows,  
Lest the session be continued,  
Til arrive next winter's snows."

"Pledged must be the western  
[tribune  
To suppress his oft-told tale,  
How his virtues brought him  
[headlong  
From inside the Liberal pale."

"Mr. Cockshutt must be silent  
About a tariff for his plows,  
Nor must Mr. Tolmie discourse  
On his favorite breed of cows."

"Please will good Macdonald  
[Mowat  
Do a favor for a friend?  
Old maids' chatter is quite trying  
To Sir Robert—let it end."

"While our sages from the island  
Set amid the icy seas,  
Must abate their six-hour speeches  
And interminable pleas."

"Mr. Glass must swear to silence  
On his agelong theme of flax.  
Brandon's grave and pious member  
Must not our emotions tax."

"Thus Sir Robert—you can have  
[him  
Back to lead you once again,  
If from these unpleasant habits  
Divers' members will refrain."

"But if pledges are not given,  
He will not his task resume.  
Does not thought of an election  
Fill you, comrades, with some  
[gloom??"

"Yours the choice, my friends and  
[brethren;  
I have saved an ample hoard  
And a pleasant refuge ready,  
Chairman of the Railway Board.

"Yours to face the grim electors  
Eager to exact their due,  
'Tis a fate I do not envy,  
But the choice now rests with  
[you."

J. A. Stevenson,  
in *Citizen*, Ottawa.

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## Are Our Foreign Affairs in Safe Hands? or OUR PINCHBECK CANNING

ON Thursday, March 10th the President of the Privy Council occupied well-nigh three hours in expounding the terms of the Bulgarian Treaty, pleading for its ratification and indulging in a lengthy dissertation upon the League of Nations and Canada's status therein. The cheers with which the conclusion of his speech was greeted showed that he had succeeded in imposing upon the credulity and innocence of the Coalition cohorts, but it is a rare occasion that the House is the victim of such a waste of valuable time.

Within the last month both Lord Curzon and Mr. Asquith have stated in so many words that the Treaty of Versailles is morally dead and that its eventual revision is inevitable. The London Nation in its issue of February 21st contains this verdict: "The Treaty is dead in the sense that no attempt will be made to enforce it. The meeting of the Allied Premiers has done its work with unusual promptitude and decision. It has to all intents and purposes cut the punitive clauses clean out of the settlement. The Allies have not climbed down, they have leaped down in one acrobatic bound.... The Treaty is melting as rapidly as the oCalition's majority."

Then, in another passage, "Bit by bit the Treaty falls away like the leaves of a tree which is rotten at the roots. Its authors observe this decay without shame and assist it. Why not? There is no moral or intellectual accountancy in the world of politics. Mere inconsistency goes for nothing and our Penelopelike statesmen unravel at night the fabric they wove in the daytime." Even papers of widely different political views, from the trades like the London Observer and the Spectator, take substantially the same ground.

It may be that Mr. Rowell thinks it proper to emulate Mr. Arthur Balfour in declining to read papers, but surely the man who is in charge of our External Affairs cannot have omitted to read the illuminating book of Mr. J. M. Keynes, who acted as representative of the British Treasury at the Peace Conference and after resigning in disgust, has devoted his brilliant talents as an economist and writer to demonstrating to the satisfaction of most intelligent people that the Treaty as it stands is unworkable, if not fraught with ruin and disaster to all concerned. If Mr. Rowell does not know these things, he ought not be in charge of our foreign affairs at this critical time. If he does and persists in making speeches about the Treaty without commenting upon this new orientation of affairs, he becomes a positivemane to sound democratic government, in which confidence can only continue if sustained by straightforwardness on the part of the leading figures operating it.

In regard to the special problem of Bulgaria there are aspects which are worthy of consideration. Mr. Rowell, it is reported, was once in Egypt and the Holy Land but otherwise his acquaintance with Eastern affairs comes by intuition. Mr. Leland Buxton is a member of the well-known English family which has given to the national life a long series of philanthropists and public figures. He has been a candidate for the British Parliament and is a recognized authority on Eastern affairs. Not only has he travelled extensively all over the Near East but he served with distinction in these regions during the war. Writing from London on February 9th to a New York weekly, he says "The Treaty of Bulgaria for instance is a more flagrant violation of the rights of nationality than the Treaty of Versailles".

No less than a quarter of the Bulgarian race is now under the rule of our Balkan allies whose treatment of racial minorities has hitherto been conspicuously cruel and intolerant. It is idle to expect moreover that the Greeks, Serbs and Rumanians will take the same enlightened view of their own interests as we are beginning to take of ours for they are peoples who cherish their hatreds to the exclusion of self interest, of common sense and of that sanity of feeling which is returning to Western Europe. Their policy towards Bulgaria is — and will long continue to be — the infliction of as much suffering as possible on the Bulgarian people regardless of the common economic interest of the Balkan countries." To which authority are we to give ear, Mr. Rowell or Mr. Leland Buxton? Mr. Rowell is never weary of insisting upon his devotion to Liberal principles which he vows he will never shed. If he is sincere, it might have been more becoming for him to have moved a reasoned protest against the enforcement of the Bul-

garian Treaty till the adjustments now inevitable are made rather than to have asked the House to ratify it blindly at the bidding of the Foreign Office in London.

But the Bulgarian Treaty was really only a peg whereon the President of the Privy Council might hang another of his lucubrations upon the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations. Mr. Rowell has doubtless devoted much midnight oil to a study of the Peace Treaty and learned volumes upon constitutional and international law but a survey of his various utterances since he assumed the direction of our foreign affairs leads to the unhappy conclusion that he mistakes emotions for principles and an acquaintance with the jargon of international law for knowledge of its fundamental axioms. Just as Sir George Foster likes to air his newly acquired knowledge of French, so Mr. Rowell delights to parade on all possible occasions the diplomatic vocabulary which he accumulated till his orations remind one of the description of a similar politician in the Rolliad.

*"The wary beavers thus their stores increase,  
And spend their summers on their winters' grease."*

But even in phraseology Mr. Rowell is often sadly astray and antiquated. He persists in using the term "British Empire" when all competent authorities are united in agreeing that the proper description of the group of nations under the British flag is the British Commonwealth. Search the pages of the Round Table and you will find a stern boycott of the word "Empire". General Smuts has asserted that the British Empire ceased to exist in August, 1914, and no less a person than Mr. Lloyd George is responsible for the statement that anyone who used the word Empire in connection with the British communities should be chloroformed. Of course Mr. Rowell has the consulting company of the I. O. D. E.

Again Mr. Rowell keeps reiterating that we are at least a nation but the asseveration of the phrase butters no parsnips. International law takes no cognizance of "nations"; it recognizes only "sovereign states" and "dependencies". From no quarter will there come any objection to our calling Canada a nation; it is as if one requested friends always to put "Esquire" after our name. Whether our people have spiritual unity and background of common experience and tradition, which are usually deemed necessary for nation hood, is a matter of doubt but the title is ours for the asking. What is in question is our statehood and on this subject Mr. Rowell says never a word. The facts

that our delegates signed the Treaty of Versailles does not alter our status one iota as long as the British North America Act has force. It is a written statute and holds the field against all innovations in practice which are not ratified by similar written documents. Then Mr. Rowell indulges in a great deal of theatrical posturing about our casualty lists having won us a place on the international stage. It is a cheap and tawdry argument. There is a renewal in Scotland of the

movement for Home Rule and a Coalition Liberal is introducing a bill. Scotland mourns 100,000 of her sons slain in the war but in the whole land there is none so cheap and paltry-minded as to think of basing their arguments for greater political freedom upon that sad and prideful record.

Time and oft Mr. Rowell in recent weeks has wailed and moaned about the iniquity of certain American Senators in the demanding that the United States receive like the British Commonwealth six votes in the League, to which proposal Lord Grey gave tentative approval. Mr. Rowell regards this as a monstrous degradation of Canada's new won status, strikes heroic attitudes and indulges in a great deal of unnecessary declamation against our neighbor, which of course may be useful for a future protectionist campaign. He is pained and alarmed lest the British Government should consent to this outrage and hints darkly at possible consequences. But it seems to most detached observers to be a case of much ery and little wool.

If an ancient power like Great Britain with nearly fifty million citizens is content to allow America six votes in order to soothe her susceptibilities, and to be satisfied for herself with one sixth of the British group representation, why should we raise any premature uproar at least until we cease to be a subordinate community fettered and limited by the terms of the British North America Act? If Mr. Rowell would enlighten us as to his opinions of the future of that interesting statute, he would be doing some public service. The real problem is to work out a system which will establish complete autonomy for the Dominions in all matters including foreign affairs without impairing the legal unity of the Commonwealth. It may be insoluble and has already baffled many able minds. But it is a mournful fact that the politician who is at present our guide and eicerone in external affairs, one of the most vital of our interests, is to-day making a singularly ineffectual contribution to the enlightenment of public opinino. It would also be a great gain for the country and himself if he would read with care the memoirs and records of great Foreign Ministers like Castlereagh, Canning, Clarendon, Granville and Salisbury and learn that the best practitioners of the diplomatic arts never deal in cheap emotion to gain their ends.

J. A. Stevenson.

### Public Criticism

Good, absent-minded, old Dr. Wilder was greatly dependent upon his practical wife. One morning Mrs. Wilder sent up an announcement after he had entered the pulpit with a foot-note intended to be private.

"The Women's Missionary Society," he read aloud, "will meet Wednesday afternoon, at three o'clock sharp. Your necktie is crooked; please straighten toward the right." —The Watchman-Examiner.

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60 DANDURAND BUILDING, MONTREAL  
GEO. PIERCE, Editor. KENNEDY CRONE, Associate Editor.

## Montreal Has Many Beggars

THE prosperous city of Montreal is on the way to becoming as notorious as Naples for the number and variety of its beggars. Hardly a street in the downtown district is free from them, and they are periodical visitors to practically all the office buildings and restaurants. In the residential districts housewives have never been so pestered by beggars at their doors as they are to-day.

Some of these beggars have very real infirmities, but that is no excuse, as there are numerous agencies and individuals able and willing to take care of them in a proper manner; there is no need for indiscriminate charity, and the main reason that beggars like it is that it pays much better than any other sort, and also permits of a nice, lazy life. It is known that some blind beggars can make \$50 and more a week, and recently there came to light a case of a woman who was using the food she begged to feed her boarders in a house she owned. In a common Greek restaurant on St. Catherine street, east, the other day, I saw a beggar collect \$2.25 in five minutes, or at the rate of \$15 an hour if he were able to keep up the pace.

One feature of the begging epidemic is that a good deal of it is done at church doors, based on the knowledge that the worshippers passing in and out are more easily induced to give alms there than at other places and times, which says something for the good influences of the church and nothing at all for the manner in which the church permits these good influences to be exploited. Even if beggars were of necessity obliged to seek alms at church doors, there would still be a serious reflection on the church.

The law, generally, is strongly against begging, not from any lack of sympathy with the infirm or the distressed; on the contrary, because it is well understood by all interested in social welfare that indiscriminate charity is probably more harmful to the efforts to relieve genuine suffering than any other factor. There is a curious contradiction in the law, however, which permits the chief of police to issue begging licenses to a limited num-

ber of "deserving persons". A more shocking way for the authorities of a great, rich city thickly studded with Christian institutions to deal with its unfortunates could hardly be imagined. Not even Naples licenses its professional beggars.

However, even apart from the question of the licensed beggars, which requires a change of law and practice, there is work for the police to do in carrying out the law in relation to the unlicensed beggars, who apparently outnumber the others by at least ten to one. Of eleven beggars questioned on the streets recently, not one was able to show a permit from the chief of police.

K. C.

## Easter Clothing

A PITIFUL story of child snobbery came up from one of the Southern states recently, the victim of which, a bright and intellectual, but poor, boy, was kicked to death by his school mates who were better clothed but less endowed with grey matter than he. The little fellow was the clever boy of his school class, which apparently was resented because his elbows and knees were patched and his shoes were coming to pieces, hence the rest of the boys set upon him in the street in such a way that he died of his injuries. In this case it is not the school boys who are really the guilty ones: it is their parents, their teachers and society generally. Had those boys ever had a lesson on Pope's dictum, "The mind's the standard of the man", or Bobbie Burns' poem, "A man's a man for a' that"? The school primers teach the location of far-off capes and rivers which are unpronounceable, but they are neglecting to inculcate the most elementary facts about the equality and brotherhood of humanity into these young minds.

Snobbery is one of the greatest dangers of this continent. In old countries where there existed courts and nobles and distinct stratas of society, there was some sort of logic in looking down upon certain sections of people: but in the new world where democracy is supposed to be the pivot of the body politic, it is awful to see the growing tendency towards cleavage on account of dollars. No children ought to be allowed to grow up with the fallacious idea that the boy whose pants are patched or the girl whose hat is last year's fashion has any fewer rights in this world than those who wear new suits and Paris creations. All the talk about brotherhood must fail until that spirit can be banished.

Easter is upon us, the most sacred of all the Christian festivals, speaking of the greatest triumph over persecution, narrowness and bigotry that the world has ever seen: yet to judge by newspaper advertisements for the past few weeks a pagan from darkest Africa, if he could read, might conceive the belief that a necessary part of Easter Day worship was to be arrayed in new clothing. Children take their opinions from their atmosphere, and the death of the little southerner was directly due to conclusions taken from the grown-ups around them.

CAEDMON.

## Is Labor Fit To Govern?

Robert Blatchford, editor of the *Clarion*, has this to say in answer to Winston Churchill's jibe that British labor is not fit to govern:

"Mr. Churchill's latest impertinence has provided us with a smile, which is a real boon in these gloomy and tempestuous days, for if there is a political popinjay in the Kingdom who ought to avoid the subject of political incompetence he is the man."

"There is no esoteric mystery about Government as it is conducted in this country. As I told the workers thirty years ago any intelligent man who has proved himself capable of earning his living at a trade or business and of bringing up a family in a decent and reasonable way possesses sense enough to be a Cabinet Minister. The problems with which millions of us deal from day to day are just as difficult as the problems of statesmanship. There may be working men with special gifts for governing, just as there are educated politicians who are dangerous fools. If Labor can pick out its best men and keep down the extremists there is no visible reason why Labor should not govern a good deal better than the average British Cabinet."

"If, as many friends of Labor believe, or fear, Labor is likely to make mistakes in foreign or colonial policy that is chiefly for want of special knowledge. Now the lack of that special knowledge can be made good. The danger of a labor failure arises from two causes: the want of special knowledge and the fondness for ideals. The ideals are amiable and lofty, but often they are too much in advance of the facts."

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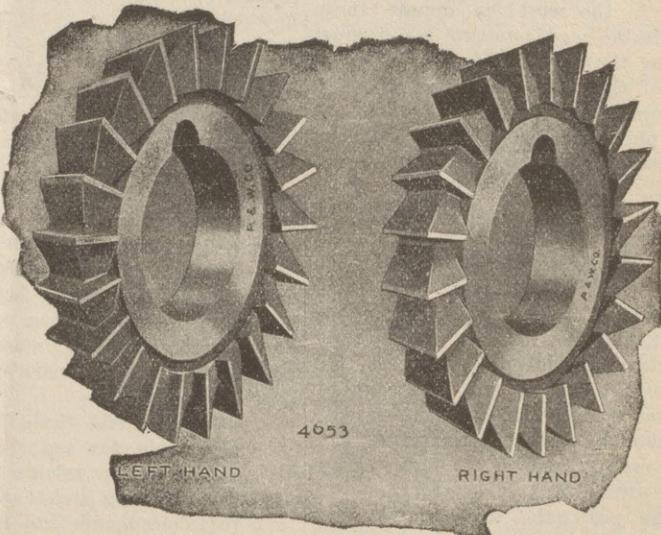
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## OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

(From our own correspondent)

Glasgow, March 6th.

THE facts which are being brought to light regarding the shop rent ramp in certain Scottish cities disclose an unanswerable case for parliamentary intervention. Business and professional men would be the last in the world to oppose those inevitable readjustments which must follow the application of the principle of the economic rent. Property owners cannot be called upon to act as philanthropists. But what is sought by the shopkeepers, large and small, and by the whole business community, is protection from grossly exorbitant demands in the way of rent and from the chance of summary eviction—either of which may lead to financial ruin, unemployment, and distress. It is altogether contrary to the public interest that old-established houses, built up by honest trading and constant endeavor, should be brought to ruin by outrageous demands on the part of property owners and speculators.

The proposals, which have been submitted to the Glasgow Town Council, are of vital interest to every shopkeeper in the United Kingdom. Under these proposals no good tenant could be disturbed, provided he was prepared to pay an increase of at least twenty-five per cent. upon his present rent. No business man would disagree with that or any similar proposition. He is quite prepared to pay anything within reason in order to save himself from commercial extinction, but it is just because he has no option that the present agitation has arisen. Large numbers of tenants are threatened with eviction in May, and, if further grave loss and dislocation are to be avoided, suitable measures should be taken without further delay.

### Rush to Ireland.

It was reported this week that a number of joiners had left the Clyde district for Belfast, where, it is stated, they are to receive \$35 per week. The offer, it is understood, is being made by a firm of refrigerating machinery manufacturers who are engaged in fitting out steamers built in Belfast.

### Soaring Prices

The statement that the Labor Party is to undertake a national campaign against soaring prices appears to be premature. The position is to be discussed at the Trade Union Congress this month, when future action will be decided upon. Sir William Beveridge, in an interview, put forward two suggestions for checking the mischief wrought by trusts and combines—by the statutory limitation of their dividends as in the co-operative movement. The re-imposition of Government control on the scale employed during

the war would, he thinks, have the effect of further increasing prices.

Cotton and tobacco are the latest commodities to take another jump up the prices list. Such increases are becoming appallingly monotonous, but the only check upon them is the protest of the public. Every increase, however, necessary, needs its "cover," and the scales turn all the time more against the consumer. If the dealers are, as they say, the victims of the nature of things the public will do them a service in taking all possible action to protect them against their fate. The cotton operatives have warned the public that somebody would have to suffer for the inflated values at which the cotton mills were being bought out. The rapid rises in cotton prices and cotton reels, coming by some strange coincidence on the same way, confirm their warning.

We shall be told that the higher prices possible for exported cotton are responsible for raising the price of cotton at home; and then we shall turn to tobacco and find that some other explanation is necessary for our wounded pockets. The storm has been brewing in warnings and hints, and it has broken on us in increases for which it will be hard indeed to plead justification which will convince the average man. Higher prices are doing nothing to check consumption, for we are smoking more than ever before.

### Plumbers' Lock-Out

The lock-out of Glasgow plumbers took effect this week. About one thousand men are affected. The dispute has arisen over the scheme for the payment of the apprentices whose period of training was interrupted by war service. Last week the apprentices in four shops in the city came out on strike as a protest against the employers' refusal to accept the scheme, and the lock-out which has taken place is the result of the strike. One of the objections on the part of the Master Plumbers' Association to the scheme is the suggestion to make it retrospective to January 1, 1919, as they contend it should be made retrospective only to November 1, 1919. Another objection is as to the manner in which they allege the matter has been rushed through by labor being withdrawn from the shops without a reasonable opportunity for discussion being afforded.

From the union point of view it is stated that the scheme of the master plumbers for returned apprentices was drawn up without the consent of the operatives, and the wages were such that a man of 25 years of age would have been in receipt of \$8.50 per week as wages for his last year. Plumbers are employed in the shipbuilding yards on the Clyde, and the Shipbuilders' Assoc-

iation have accepted the scheme, and a number of master plumbers, who are not in the Employers' Association, are also to have agreed to it. In a number of the associations affected by the scheme the liberty of the individual members to accept it was not questioned, but such, it is said, was not the case with the masters plumbers. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the Engineers' Employers' Federation regard the scheme as binding on all their members. The union also contend that the men are being locked out because they are supporting a scheme already agreed to by the master plumbers.

### Tramway Wages

The award has been issued of the claim heard before the Industrial Court, in Glasgow, for an advance of \$1 per week for employees of 18 and over in the tramway department of the Kilmarnock Corporation, and 50 cents under 18. The award states:—The tramway undertaking of the Corporation began to be operated in or about 1904, and has never been carried on at a profit. During the years from 1915 to 1919 the annual deficit was about \$15,000 per annum. The track is about four miles long. An increase of fares as from January 1, 1920, showed an increase in revenue for the month of approximately \$175 on the monthly revenue, which was stated to be approximately \$250, and a decrease of passengers carried of about 12 per cent. The men concerned have received by way of war advances \$7.50 per week. The court has awarded an advance of 50 cents per week for the workers aged 18 and over.

### Payment By Results

Carpenters and cabinetmakers must not accept payment of a bonus of any kind. This decision, which may be considered even by its members to be too drastic, has been come to by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers and Joiners, which has issued a circular to that effect. It means, said an official of the union, that we are determined not to permit our members to be wheedled into negotiations on the question of the piece work pay, or payment results. We fought hard

to get a decent hourly wage, and while it may at present seem that our members would be better off if paid by results, we know otherwise. We fear that the offerings of a bonus—no matter on what pretext—simply a sly way of introducing the question. All we want is the wage per hour, which has been conceded—it varies in different parts of the country—and the double rate for overtime.

### Business Tenants' Union

As an outcome of the protest meeting by occupiers of shops and offices in Glasgow, the Business Tenants' Protection Association has been formed. In furtherance of the aims of the organization, a request has been sent to the Secretary for Scotland that he should receive a deputation. Sir William Sutherland has also been approached, with a view to getting him to summon a meeting of Scottish Members of Parliament, irrespective of party, to hear representatives of the Association.

### Shipyard Association

In their report issued this week, the committee appointed by the Institution of Naval Architects to consider the question of the education and training of apprentices in the private shipyards and marine engine works of the country, recommend the desirability of having an indentured system of apprenticeship where practicable, or, at least, a definite understanding between all the parties concerned, involving direct obligations on both sides. Apprentices should be under the specific care of a supervisor of apprentices. Practical instruction should be given to them by selected employees, and facilities provided for them to learn their respective trades, care being taken to avoid over-specialization. Facilities, also, should be provided whereby any boy who desires to do so, can change his trade, subject to his progress in schools and works being satisfactory. It is also recommended that facilities and assistance should be given to the best qualified apprentices, judged by their school and works records, to take a recognized university course in naval architecture and engineering.

James Gibson.



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## OUR LONDON LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, March 5th.

We are threatened with a transport strike.

The Transport Workers' Federation submitted demands for a \$2.50 a week increase for men and \$1.25 for boys engaged in commercial road transport. The passenger vehicle workers are at present unaffected, having a programme of their own.

The position is that these commercial transport workers have had no advances for many months and when the employers met them they flatly refuse to grant the new and modest demands. The reason for the refusal is illuminating. Labor's representatives were told: "Well, gentlemen, it is no use our discussing the question, because there are numbers of firms outside the employers' organizations and whatever awards are made by the Joint Industrial Council, they will not keep them."

The answer of Labor naturally is: "You must put your own house in order; we can't do it for you. When we find a crowd of non-unionist workers we take steps to either rope them in or eliminate them. You must do the same."

When the pronouncement of the employers was made known, the Labor delegates were justifiably angry and said there was nothing left but to take industrial action. They called on the Transport Workers Federation to ask the unions affected for authorization of strike notices and this was done. This action was met at once by strenuous efforts on the part of the Ministry of Labor — which is a Government department, and not to be confounded with any section of the Labor Party — to get the two sides together with a view to a second conference. That meeting takes place on Tuesday next.

The most interesting event in the near future is the Trades Union Congress, to take place in London, on Thursday, on the question of nationalization of mines. The whole country is agitated over it.

Robert Smillie and his Miners' Federation have always said the only way to get the best out of the mines is to nationalize them and have been running a campaign towards that end for years. They persuaded the Government and it took a strike threat to do it, — to institute the Coal Commission, which proved to a demonstration that mine owners are making unreasonable profits. The majority report of the Commission said the mines ought to become State property, and then the Lloyd George Government, jettisoning the report, declared against nationalization and it became a front rank Labor question.

The congress is called to decide what Labor is to do. It has in plain terms declared that it expects the trade unions to take steps to compel the Government to carry out the majority report of the Commission and the main controversy at the moment is how this can be done. There is a strong section in favor of industrial action. Political action has considerable support, however, and at the moment of writing appears to be in the ascendancy.

But that is not the whole story. The miners are saying and will tell the congress that the mines are making so much money that there will be a 50 million pounds surplus at the end of the year which finishes in July next. They argue that if the money is not used for nationalization purposes, in the shape of redemption of bonds, it should either be devoted to a reduction in the cost of coal or to increasing the wages of the men and boys who have made that wealth by their terrible toil down the mines.

The upshot of the business appears likely to be that the strike for nationalization will not be insisted upon by the congress, but that a demand for higher wages will be made on behalf of the whole of the workers in the minefields. That demand is sure to be stoutly resisted and there is a possibility that a strike may be necessary before it is conceded.

We are very much interested just now in the movement towards consolidating such unions as cater for the same class of workers. We have come to realize that the day of the small union is nearly over, for the simple reason that it has not the power to enforce its demands, and is a loser in the race against the more powerful organizations. Accordingly, we are striving more and more towards federation and organization. The most important example at the moment is that of the engineers, who are getting together the unions which have to deal with that class of work, with the idea of forming one Amalgamated Engineering Union.

The steam enginemakers, the United Machine Workers, the Smiths and Strikers, the Associated Brassfounders, the Instrument Makers and others are already banded together. The Moulders' Societies show promise of coming in shortly and the Electrical Engineers are considering the matter.

Another question which is exacting considerable attention is that of payment by results. Employers want it, perhaps naturally, and some of the unions are favorably disposed, and yet there is a real difficulty. Men are to be heard complaining that no sooner have they become efficient enough to

earn good money the rate is cut and they are worse off than before. Lads are made to do men's work and then when they grew old enough to ask a man's pay, it is "outside" for them. Is it any wonder that workers are suspicious of payment by results?

The Dockers' Inquiry continues to furnish some extraordinary disclosures. The workers have been favored with an unexpected and probably unwilling ally in their contention that the docks are mismanaged in the person of Lord Devonport, chairman of the Port of London Authority, who declared that there were at present in port or in sight ten months' supply of meat, a congestion of tea and too much sugar.

Congestion in the Port of London he attributed to the Government omitting to consider what was the accommodation available. Commodities had come in in such superabundance that every inch of storage accommodation under the control of the Port of London Authority was full to repletion. There were stored in the United Kingdom today 150,000 tons of meat. That was sufficient at the present rate of consumption, with the home killed meat, to supply the country for over three months. In addition, there were 106,000 tons of steamers waiting to discharge at the ports of the United Kingdom or afloat.

That meant sufficient supplies for the country for a further period of two months. Here was a third figure. In Australia, there were already waiting shipment a further 95,700 tons. When that arrived, the country would have a further two months' supplies, including, of course, home killed meat. Fourthly, Australasia was now killing this season's sheep, and it was estimated that at the end of the season it had available 148,900 tons, sufficient, with home killed, for another three months supply. All this, Lord Devonport added, was visible six months ago, when the Government were warning people that there was going to be a meat shortage. The result was serious in its effect on transport and demurrage, and other costs were passed on to the consumer. This, of course, was of great importance as affecting the question of wages.

Wool had been one of the prime causes of congestion, he added. In 1919, there were imported two million bales of wool as against 820,000 pre-war. At the time when the high water mark of wool congestion was reached, it was a wonderful sight to see this wool spread about all over the docks with improvised accommodation. There was wool everywhere. You could hardly move a step for wool. That complicated the situation to an extraordinary extent. Then, at the other end, there was a total inability on the part of the railways to take the stuff away.

There was an enormous shortage of trucks at the moment. They were standing still for about 3,000 trucks, and he supposed they got about 30 per cent only of their requirements. Before the war, they never had such a thing. This congestion arose entirely from a new thought-out plan of dealing with goods coming in over which the Government had had control.

This is exactly what the workers have been contending and, coming from a source not sympathetic to their wage demands, it is extremely valuable.

The Labor Party's Franchise Bill, which has passed the second reading, seeks to extend the franchise to women, on the same terms as to men, and also to make the qualification for the parliamentary franchise and the local government franchise the same in each case, namely, the residential qualification. A minor injustice it seeks to remedy is in connection with service voters who during their service in the army or navy became entitled to a service vote before they had attained the age of 21, and who, on demobilization or discharge, have lost their vote, because they are still under the age limit. The Labor Party holds that any man who was a service voter, but who is still under the age limit, should continue to be entitled to the franchise even though he may no longer be in one of the services. Finally, the bill seeks to remove the right of a university to charge a registration fee to university electors. At the present time, for instance, Oxford University is entitled to charge \$5 registration fee to every university voter.

Ethelbert Pogson.

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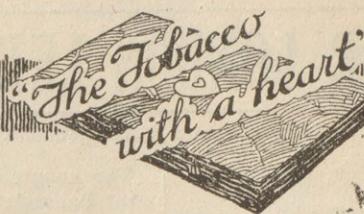
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### WHO WOULD NOT BE A CLEVELAND PLUMBER?

Cleveland, March 23.—Plumbers have presented their demands for \$12 a day of eight hours, making the second building trade union to ask \$1.50 an hour. The other is the electrical workers' union.

Both are to make contracts May 1. Plasterers, whose contract expired March 1, have signed up for \$9 a day until July 1 and \$10 a day after that. Cement finishers are asking \$1.35 an hour beginning May 1.

Since negotiations have already progressed so far, building trade union officials say the proposal to adopt a universal scale is lost for this year.

### PLANNING WELCOME TO THE STRANGERS

The changing attitude of the church towards social questions generally, and immigration in particular, was the subject of a talk given by the Rev. Canon Vernon, social secretary for Canada of the Anglican communion, in All Saints Church, Montreal, last Sunday evening.

Among other things, he said that the church was planning to see to it that all Church of England immigrants from Great Britain were kept in contact with until they were linked up amongst friends in a Canadian parish. The problems of migration within the country were also being tackled, particularly in relation to the movement of young people from country districts to the big cities or from one city to another. It was hoped that every Anglican church in Canada would have committees specially appointed to notify changes of residence of parishioners and to meet all newcomers and cause them to feel that their church had not lost track of them, but wanted them to be safeguarded and quickly brought into helpful, pleasant relations wherever they might be.

K. C.

### BANK STAFFS' REQUESTS

Ask for 25 Per Cent Increase in Salaries

The Bank Employees' Association, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, has written to the head offices of all the chartered banks in Canada, asking for a twenty-five per cent increase in salaries up to \$2,000, dating from January 1, 1920. "Without prejudice to any annual increase and allowance at present in force."

Other improvements in the conditions and work of the bank employees asked for include the following:

No night work, except on Saturdays and Mondays and special occasions, such as pay nights, with alternate staffs for night work, and the head offices of the banks to "treat through its officers with duly accredited representatives of the Employees' Association on all matters of grievance which may arise between employers and employees."

The bank employees also ask the right to discuss and adjust restrictions of the liberty of staffs, particularly the interference with marriage.

### MUST ORGANIZE FOR DEMOCRACY

(H. W. Wood, in Western Independent.)

Democracy may be defined as the people in intelligent, organized action. A real democratic government would be one carried on intelligently by the people, for the benefit of the people. Before the people can do this they will have to develop a capacity for intelligent, united action. This capacity will have to be acquired through highly developed organization.

### EXPLAINING THE EARLY BIRD

**First Bird.**—"Didn't you come north unusually soon?"

**Second Bird.**—"Yes, I heard nests are going to be awfully scarce."—New York Sun.

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## Industrial Occupation of Women in Montreal During War Period

An investigation into the "Industrial Occupations of Women" in Montreal during the war period, conducted by Miss Enid M. Price, B.A., under the auspices of the Department of Economics and Political Science of McGill University, and described by Miss Price in a pamphlet published by the Canadian Reconstruction Association, is a survey which is a real contribution to the study of women's work.

One of many noteworthy features is the report of the investigation of railway shops, which is here given in part:

July, 1914, to

November, 1918.

One of the most interesting and radical changes brought about by the war in the world of manual labour, was seen in railway shops. The manufacture of munitions was purely a war time industry, and owing to the vital need for adequate production, men and women alike were pressed into service. On the other hand, machine shops and railway shops were in existence before the war, and employed only men to do the heavy manual work of constructing and repairing locomotives, machinery and cars. Although in neither machine shops nor iron and steel construction plants were women employed, except on munitions, they were used in railway shops. There were two reasons for this. In the first place, enough men were not available to maintain sufficient production. In the second place, there was a desire to experiment with female labor and see to what extent it could be used to offset the impoverished labor market, and thus serve the common good of all. The results obtained regarding these two shops appear below.

### Shop No. 1.

In 1914, this shop had in its employ 4,655 men and 3 women. The women were day laborers and paid at the rate of \$0.16 per hour. The average wage paid to the men was \$0.25 per hour.

In October, 1916, there were 4,371 men in the shops exclusive of the munitions plant. About 210 women were then hired for the first time. They were placed at work best fitted for them to begin with, and in a short time those who had passed their apprenticeship as Sweepers, Coach Washers and so forth, were transferred to a better class of work, such as Brass Filing and Drilling. By the end of the first season, there were about 50 women working as General Carpenters who built refrigerator cars. Their work was entirely satisfactory and some of them earned as much as \$100.00 per month at piece work and by working overtime.

The wages were paid to men and women at the same rate for the same work. As the men were much more skilled than the women, their wages averaged higher. The highest wages paid to the men were \$0.50 per hour, and to the women \$0.26 per hour. The lowest wages paid to the men were \$0.12 per hour and to the women \$0.18 per hour. The average wages paid to the men were \$0.30 per hour and to the women \$0.22 per hour.

Out of 210 women, 111 were married, 6 or 7 had never had previous employment, and 12 came from domestic service. The nationalities of the women were proportioned as follows: 117 were French Canadian, 73 were English speaking and 20 were foreigners. Only women who proved upon investigation to be absolutely in need of work were employed.

As time went on, the occupations of the women became more skilled and varied. They were used, as Painters, Mattress Makers, on Light Punch Machines, as Bolt and Nut Threaders, on Turret Lathes, as Saw Filers, at Buffing Machines, Milling Machines, as Armature Winders, Third Class Machinists and Laborers. They were also used on munitions in another department of the shops.

By October, 1918, there was a further increase in the number of female laborers. At that date, the pay-roll showed 4,884 men and 240 women. The wages paid had increased very considerably over those paid in 1916. The highest wages paid men were \$0.73 per hour, the highest wages paid women were \$0.68 per hour. The lowest wages paid the men at this time were \$0.25 per hour and the lowest to the women were \$0.34 per hour. The average men's wages were \$0.54 per hour and the average women's wages were \$0.45 per hour.

Out of the 240 women at work, in October, 1918, none were working at their first employment; 187 of the women were married; none of the women came from domestic service, but all from other plants; there were 105 French Canadians, 100 English speaking women, and 35 foreigners.

This was among the first of Canadian Corporations to introduce and institute the use of overalls among the women workers. At first there was a little difficulty in overcoming prejudice, but as the women realized that they not only safeguard their lives, but their clothes, they quickly adopted them.

There was very little adjustment of equipment required. The women worked under the same conditions as the men, except that they were allowed to leave the shops five

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OPEN EVENINGS

Women were placed in the store-room and the time office, which was a new departure.

In the Motive Power Department, women assisted mechanics to work milling machines, drilling machines and lathes. They cleaned repaired parts of machinery, painted engines and did general cleaning about the shops.

The women all wore uniforms in order to facilitate their work and insure their safety.

By November, 1918, there were 1,882 men employed in the Motive Power Shops and 24 women. All of the women worked at piece work on standard schedule prices, that is they were paid at the same rates as the men for the same work. The highest wages paid to the men at this date were \$0.73 per hour and to the women \$0.50 per hour. The lowest wages paid to the men were \$0.25 per hour and to the women \$0.31 per hour. The average wages paid to the men were \$0.52 per hour and to the women \$0.34 per hour.

Out of these 24 women the percentage who had never worked before was 41%; those who were married was 59%; from domestic service there were 17%. The nationality of the women was as follows: French Canadian 16%, English speaking 70%, and foreign 14%.

In the Car Shops, November, 1918, there were 911 men and 16 women. All of the women were paid piece work rates according to a standard schedule. The men were paid from \$0.33 to \$0.70 per hour, the average being \$0.53 per hour. The women were paid from \$0.42 to \$0.45 per hour, the average being \$0.43½ per hour.

The number of married women in the Car Shops was 45%, and the number coming from domestic service was 45%. The nationality of the women was 50% English speaking and 50% French Canadian.

In the Motive Power Office connected with the shops, August, 1914, there were 5 male clerks and no female clerks. The average salary paid to the men was \$15.00 per week.

In October, 1918, in the same office, there were 6 male clerks and 6 female clerks. The average salary paid to the men was \$26.85 per week. All of the women received \$20.37 per week.

These female clerks were all English speaking. None of them were married. None of them had previously been school teachers. For 16% of them it was their first employment.

In the Car Department Office connected with the Shops, in August, 1914, there were 12 male clerks and no female clerks. The average salary paid per week was \$16.00.

In the same office, in October, 1918, there were 17 men and one woman. The average salary paid to the men per week was \$21.00, and to the woman \$19.00 per week.

**Railway Shop No. 2.**

In August, 1914, there was 1,841 male employees in the Motive Power Shops of the company, and no female employees. In the car shops, there were 928 men and 2 women. The average wage paid to the men was \$0.25 per hour and to the women \$0.17 per hour.

During the war period, women sought work in the shops and as there was a great shortage of men they were hired. They proved themselves to be ambitious and quick to learn any work to which they were assigned.

In the Passenger Car Department they were used successfully at staining, filling and varnishing. Women were put at painting the inside of cars, leaving men free to do varnishing and heavier work on the outside.

Women were also employed in the Upholstering Shop. Here they sewed carpets and seat coverings and made window blinds.

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**SOCIETY GUSH**

The big metropolitan papers make fun of the country paper, with its personals about Farmer Smith who has just painted his barn, and the small city dailies, with their many letters from neighboring villages. Then they print columns of silly detail regarding the social high-ups.

Every Sunday the society editors dwell lovingly upon the costume of Miss Jones, with her white satin and iridescent sequins, Miss Smith, with her apricot chiffon taffeta with silver lace and morning glories, Mrs. Robinson, with her gown of lavender net, and girdle of pale pink and blue ribbon, etc., etc.

The absurd thing about metropolitan journalism is that it picks out some narrow circles of the alleged Four Hundred, calls it "society", records its doings with obsequious detail. Meanwhile the mass of hard working people are ignored unless they get into the police court.

When you read that Farmer Smith has painted his barn, you learn that something has been done to improve the community and put it on a better economic basis. It is worth mentioning and Farmer Smith should have his picture in the paper.

But when you read how the Four Hundred are parading around in their party clothes, you read about something that is of no benefit to the community, and much of it represents mere extravagant spending. It is of no more significance that Mrs. Gotrox has a new party dress than that Mrs. Corntassel has a new checkered apron. Both are equally worthy of being mentioned in the newspaper. Also Mrs. Corntassel is doing good work with the apron, while Mrs. Gotrox may be wasting her husband's money.

Therefore if you want to get real rustic provincialism, buy a big metropolitan Sunday newspaper, and read its society gush. — Auburn Booster, Chicago.

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"I see," remarked a gentleman as he paid a small newsboy for his paper, "that you are putting up a good many new buildings in your town."

"That is the only kind we put up here, sir," replied the little fellow, with a touch of civic pride.—Judge.

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